



Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) Meeting Minutes February 17, 2017

Attendees

Mariculture Task Force members attending: Julie Decker, Angel Drobnica, Sam Rabung, Eric Wyatt, Jeff Hetrick, Paula Cullenberg, Kate Sullivan, Mike Stekoll, Heather McCarty, Chris Whitehead, Chris Hladick

Members of the Public: Tomi Marsh- Ocean's Alaska, Tamsen Peeples- Blue Evolution, Kirsten Shelton-Walker and Susan Bell- McDowell Group, Charlotte Regula-Whitefield- Senator Murkowski's office, Paul Fuhs- Alaska Longneck Farms, Bobby Hudson- Pacific Shellfish Institute, Eva Bornstein- Juneau Economic Development Council, Bill Hines- NOAA Fisheries, Barbara Blake- Office of Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott, Christy Collins and Adam Smith- Department of Natural Resources, Cynthia Pring-ham- Department of Fish and Game, Linda Mattson - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Materials distributed to task force members included: Agenda for February 17 meeting, minutes from January 11 meeting; AC Chairs and McDowell Group Meeting minutes, advisory committee minutes, MTF Handout, Press Release, HB 76, Shellfish Enhancement bill, draft letters of support for draft bills, MTF Planning diagram

8:03am Chairman Chris Hladick called the meeting to order

Agenda was reviewed

No changes to agenda- agenda adopted

January 11 meeting minutes were reviewed

Minutes: no changes were made to the minutes. Julie Decker motioned to approve the minutes; Sam Rabung seconded. Minutes approved.

Public Introductions & Comment

Public comment- Paul Fuhs Alaska Longneck Farms spoke on the Department of Natural Resources requirements and logistical struggles that exist to market his product. He will work with Sam Raybung to provide further feedback on the regulations.

Charlotte Whitetail- Senator Murkowski's office- joined and thanked the task force for holding the meeting

Special Presentations

Kirstin Shelton-Walker updated the task force on phase 2 and 3; they are doing industry profiles on industry species in Alaska and are conducting interviews with both industry and government contacts to see the opportunities and wins that exist in this area. They will also

do research on how to support the different industries that fall under the subject of mariculture. They will create an economic framework for how things could move forward with regards to mariculture that could be included in the final comprehensive plan that is submitted to Governor Walker. After the report, they will do a cost benefit analysis of the economic impact of the plan for phase three.

Heather McCarty asked Kirstin regarding the farms in the industry and including hatcheries in their research. They have included hatcheries. McDowell group is also looking for input on the subject of hatcheries versus enhancement.

McDowell group will get the MTF a timeline for dates for completion of industry interviews, and when they have finished looking at the investment strategies from both public and private industries, and once they have a finished rough draft of their plan.

Old Business:

Updates from Advisory Committee Chairs:

Sam Rabung- Regulatory Issues (meeting scheduled for Feb 28)

Jeff Hetrick & Angel Drobica- the Investment & Infrastructure (met on Jan 20)

Paula Cullenberg- Workforce Development (met on Feb 8)

Heather McCarty- Public Education and Marketing (met on Feb 14)

Mike Stekoll- Research, Development & Environmental Information (have met twice since Jan 11, will get notes to Sam to include in the website)

Notes from AC updates

Regulatory Issues AC: Adam Smith from DNR assisted Sam in update and they are crafting recommendations to bring to the full MTF

Research, Development and Environmental Information AC: identified short, mid, and long term goals

- Short term: focus on species and combining what they've already done within that context and see what needs to be done for each. Come up with some short term goals for research that needs to be done to support the industry and also research environmental factors that can affect shellfish.
- Mid term: look farther out to potential species and looking to other places for their technology on how to import species to Alaska Long term: put together ideas for overarching research structure for mariculture in Alaska.
- Sam Rabung posed the question to see if the AC supports baseline studies on indigenous stocks with regards to transporting grow out. They are researching the issue.
- Paul Fuhs requested that the AC research to test better for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). Heather mentioned that there were several projects that were in the works to develop an in the field test kit. Chris expounded on the bio toxin testing in the Sitka lab and are in the process of working with the State and the FDA to offer the receptor binding assay method and have it utilized for commercial geoduck harvesting.
- Chris will provide Mike a short summary of the work that they have been doing on PSP.
- Kate: the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is in the final process of getting the HPLC method approved as well.

Investment and Infrastructure AC: will work with McDowell group to help identify a common format for gathering information and recommendation

Public Education and Marketing AC: discussion had on ideas to include both marketing, public education, and product development information in the full comprehensive plan

- Jeff Hetrick will talk to Heather off line on marketing thoughts that he has that he would like to be addressed
- Barbara Blake met with Dan Cornelius with Intertribal Agriculture Council as well as Ross Racine and Zach Ducheneaux ED and Dir of the Intertribal Agriculture Council and suggested to the task force that they should start engaging with native aquaculture groups.
- Kate mentioned that if the task force is going to recommend doing business with the EU, that they must also consider the cost.
- Workforce Development AC: updated task force on the incentives for new people to get into the industry and the incentives for farmers to have new people train on their farms. They also discussed resources needed to facilitate workforce development.

Update on past presentations

- Sam Rabung will get the presentation that was put on by the Sitka Sound Science center regarding seaweeds and salmon hatchery infrastructure
- Paula Cullenberg was on a panel with Hunter Painter- Alutiiq Pride Hatchery and Karen from DNR in front of Chugach region summit.
- JEDC Innovation Summit- Tamsen and Julie presented; at the summit announced the Path to Prosperity award and the winner was Wild Alaska Kelp Company.

Update on ARPA-E (seaweed as biofuel)

Julie updated MTF on ARPA-E: the company that is researching ways to turn seaweed into biofuel. Pre-proposal deadline was Feb 14th. AFDF submitted a pre-proposal and they are waiting to see if they will be selected to submit a full proposal in the spring. AFDF sees their role as one of helping to coordinate and communicate to be sure that Alaska activity is integrated in the program. The goal of the grant is to increase the efficiency of growing and harvesting seaweed.

Updates on Shellfish Enhancement Bill- HB 128

Fish & Game are scheduled to attend the hearings

- Heather McCarty motioned to accept the letter as drafted with amendments understood in discussion; Sam Rabung seconded
- Discussion to amend the content of the letter
- Julie Decker moved to amend the letter by striking "in a similar fashion as the current management of salmon fishery enhancement and hatcheries" HM seconded amendment passed Main letter motion carried- letter as amended approved
- Motion to approve the letter as amended passed
- Jeff Hetrick requested that if the bill is passed to please have F&G work with the industry to input the regulations that would be drafted as a result

Updates on Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund bill- HB 76

- Members engaged in a discussion on working with the sponsor of the bill to amend it to make it mirror more of the salmon hatchery loan fund. Division of Economic

Development Director Britteny Cioni-Haywood joined the meeting to discuss DED's role in the bill

- Heather McCarty motioned to accept the letter as drafted with amendments understood in discussion; Julie Decker seconded
- Julie Decker motioned to amend the letter by striking "similar to how the salmon hatches have been able to apply for loan funds through the fisheries enhancement revolving loan fund" and add at the end of the paragraph "Additionally, the task force would like to work with your office to make changes to HB 76 to more fully meet the needs of this developing industry and to accommodate provisions included in the passage of HB 128. Heather McCarty seconded
- Sam suggested an amendment to the amendment to add the words "from the mariculture revolving loan fund to the end of the sentence that was struck"
- Amendment as amended passed
- Main letter motion carried- letter as amended approved

Both Sam Rabung and Commissioner Hladick will check to see if they can include their names in the letters of support.

New Business:

Communications-Upcoming presentation opportunities

- March 14th Southeast Conference presentation
- Julie will work with the United Fishermen of Alaska to garner support for the two bills

Updated outline of comprehensive planning process

- Heather McCarty suggested to add a line that goes from the McDowell group updating the task force to the final plan
- Sam Rabung suggested that the "McDowell completes phase three" and "the revise draft bubbles" be swapped (suggestion agreed with and accepted by the task force)
- September 1- McDowell group brings their report to MTF and it goes into the comprehensive plan along with the components from the MTF AC's which together will become the draft of the compressive plan.
- Heather McCarty noted that the parts of the comprehensive plan that the MTF going to be responsible for needs to be identified before September 1.
- Sam Rabung recommended that since the AC's portion is due April 1, that will inform what goes into phase 2 of the McDowell group study; and that will get us to a starting point of the draft that we will get back.
- Heather McCarty suggested to move the "MTF creates draft comprehensive plan" bubble to after the April 1 deadline.
- Julie Decker suggested to amend the comprehensive plan timeline after we receive the timeline from the McDowell group Commissioner Hladick- box coming out of April 1 McDowell begins phase 2 and MTF begins drafting comprehensive plan; MTF creates draft comprehensive plan
- Julie Decker recommended that two bubbles under April 1 should be added
 - McDowell creates outline of phase 2
 - MTF creates outline of draft comprehensive plan
- McDowell group will work with the AC's to be sure that the outline format is the same

- As the work of the public education task force will not be covered by the McDowell group, Heather McCarty will bring back an outline by April 1 to the MTF. Between April 1 and September 1 they will begin to flesh out the outline
- AC deadlines are due April 15th so that they can be distributed to the task force members
- McDowell group will have their outline to MTF by March meeting
- Heather- recommended that the comprehensive plan be kept on the agenda so that the MTF can tweak it at every meeting.

Form to document MTF Member time for in-kind match to NOAA grant

- Julie Decker will draft a form to keep track of MTF time, AC work, and time spent on homework
- Linda will distribute to MTF members once Julie has the form

Discussion regarding options for funding/ resources to facilitate MTF

- Julie has spoken with NOAA and a couple other agencies on this subject
- Charlotte Regula-Whitefield provided a small introduction to the MTF; they are hopeful that she could help identify federal programs that might help fund the MTF work
- There is a potential USDA rural development grant that might be helpful- Julie is doing some additional research on this grant We need approximately \$50,000
- Commissioner Hladick recommended drafting a budget to implement the strategic plan

Discuss communication/ work with Congressional Delegation

- Barbara Blake is checking to see if Murkowski and Sullivan will have receptions while they are in Alaska on break
- Senator Murkowski is going to the Symphony of Seafood event
- Eric Elam is the person on Senator Sullivan's staff to contact regarding mariculture issues
- Heather- recommended to get in touch with Senator Sullivan's staff as he is on the fisheries committee Barbara is coordinating meetings with the delegation and requested the task force members send her any topics to discuss with them

Homework:

AC Chairs- send Sam Rabung any information that you have regarding meetings to post on the mariculture website

MTF Members- sent Heather McCarty ideas on groups that the task force should present to Work on legislation with Rep. Ortiz's office and other members of the legislature to garner support

Next meeting dates:

March 14, 2017 from 8am to 12pm

April 26, 2017 from 9am to 1pm

TENT: May 25, 2017 from 8am to 12pm

10:53am Meeting adjourned by Chairman Hladick